

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group
FINAL: Minutes for March Meeting
3/9/05

Minutes by Dorothy Shoemaker

Present at meeting:

Neighborhood Associations:

Robin Plance	(b) (6)	St. Johns; Chair of CAG, Administrative committee coordinator
Peter Laughingwolf	(b) (6)	Cathedral Park

Environment:

Dorothy Shoemaker	Dorothy.shoemaker@oregon.sierraclub.org	Sierra Club, Board Secretary
Joe Keating	(b) (6)	Oregon Wildlife Federation Education and Outreach coordinator
Travis Williams	travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org	Willamette Riverkeeper

Health:

Jane Harris	jane@oregon-health.org	Oregon Center for Environmental Health (OCEH), Evaluation committee coordinator
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Business:

Steve Gunther	(b) (6)	Progressive Products and Services
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Recreation:

Bill Egan	no email, (b) (6)	Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
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At-Large:

Jim Robison	(b) (6)	Citizen
Jackie Calder	(b) (6)	Citizen
Bill McCauley	no email, (b) (6)	Citizen

Absent:

Neighborhood Associations:

Larry Talbert	(b) (6)	Hi Noon
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Environment:

Rhett Lawrence	rhett@ospirg.org	OSPIRG
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Recreation:

Raquel Coyote	(b) (6)	Citizen
Bill Barrett	(b) (6)	Waterfront Org. of Oregon (WOO)

Others present:

Joan Rothlein	rothlein@ohsu.edu	CROET-OHSU
Barbara Smith	Barbara@harrisandsmith.com	Lower Willamette Group (LWG)
Regina Skarzinskas	regina@TASLLC.com	Willamette-Riverkeeper
Kim Cox	kimc@bes.ci.portland.or.us	City of Portland
Sue Safford	saffos@portptld.com	Port of Portland
Mikell O'Mealy	omealy.mikell@deq.state.or.us	DEQ
Jim Anderson	Anderson.jim@deq.state.or.us	DEQ

(b) (6)

Judy Smith
Chip Humphrey
Aron Borok

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EPA
EPA
EI/Tribes

Meeting brought to order at 6:10 p.m. by Robin Plance, Chair of CAG. Rhett Lawrence and Steve Gunther both let someone know they wouldn't be at the meeting.

Introductions

Announcements:

Next meeting: April 13, 2005 at 6 p.m., same location

Remember that the CAG meetings will be at the BES Pollution Control Lab starting on June 8th.

Joe Keating reported that the WSAG (Watershed Science Advisory Group), a City of Portland board which Joe, Dorothy, and Travis serve on, is preparing a plan to be reviewed in November mayor Tom Potter and the City of Portland Council.

Robin reported that the St. John's Bridge is having a formal reopening on September 16th to 18th. He asked if the CAG wants a booth. Some discussion.

MINUTES:

Bill Egan was voted a member in the Fall, so the minutes for January and February need to be corrected. No copies of the January minutes were available, so we didn't vote on them. We discussed posting email addresses in the minutes, which get posted on the web at the DEQ site, and are linked from the CAG website.

MOTION: Accept the February, 2005 minutes. Jim Robinson moved, Joe seconded. All agreed.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE:

Jane Harris reported that the ARKEMA proposal is up for comment. An ARKEMA representative is coming to the CAG meeting on March 18th, to talk about their proposal.

Tom Gainer is the manager for Cargill Grain Loading.

Jane is sending a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Army Corps of Engineers about our objections to Schnitzer's recent dredging.

Bill McCauley asked if Jim Anderson had told a CAG meeting that Schnitzer was allowed to use an open clamshell dredge if they ran into difficulties, which they did. Jim suggested that the CAG send a letter to the DEQ Complaints Dept. complaining about it.

There is also a surface water issue, which Travis volunteered to look into and draft a complaint letter.

We discussed the Toxic Mixing Zone bill before the Oregon Legislature, in conjunction with NPDES permits. Several groups represented on the CAG are for the TMZ bill, which would abolish the permission for companies to dump toxics at high levels, then measure them at diluted amounts. These groups include the Sierra Club, the Oregon Wildlife Federation, OSPIRG, Willamette Riverkeeper, and the OCEH.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

Joe Keating and Dorothy Shoemaker reported that they completed the PRP mailing. The letter went to all the likely responsible parties (PRPs) which are not in the Lower Willamette Group (LWG). Joe will submit the receipt to Travis Williams.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

We discussed the CAG mission, and whether we're on the right track. Many thought we were on the right track, but we need to plan our course.

Jackie Calder has an idea for outreach. She'll email us.

We discussed the role of the CAG. How much outreach should we do? Should we mostly hear experts and make comments? Do we need a retreat to clarify what we want to do?

Travis suggested that CAG members gather without observers at 6 p.m. for dinner and an informal meeting. The observers could show up at 7 p.m. for the formal meeting.

MOTION: Adopt Travis' suggestion. Travis moved, Bill McCauley seconded. Vote 8-2 in favor.

Judy Smith will check with Mandy Guay about whether we can meet at 5:45 p.m.

Travis will order pizza for next month, and Jane offered to pay for the dinner in two months.

Travis reported that if we come up with a brochure, there would be funds from the TAG. He also thought it would cover a \$500 mailing.

PRESENTATION:

Regina Skarzinskas, the biologist hired with the TAG grant by Willamette Riverkeeper, reported on sediments and disposal alternatives. There was a handout.

CADs are combined aquatic disposal sites, or island CDFs.

Regina said we want to minimize CDFs.

Risk Assessment is done in Superfund cleanups before and after the cleanup to prove the cleanup was successful.

Dredging has not been clearly proven to reduce risk.

Jim Anderson of the DEQ reported that they don't want to do early actions where there is a contaminated site nearby.

Peter Laughingwolf left at 7:15. Joe Keating left at 7:50 p.m.

There are problems with caps. After capping, there can be leaking, flooding, so capping requires long-term monitoring.

Bill McCauley asked whether the DEQ is concerned yet with soda ash in the Willamette. Jim Anderson said no, the DEQ is not (yet) concerned with airborne sources.

For the April CAG meeting presentation, Sean Sel Drake will report. Sean is the project manager for early actions.

The GASCO early action document (EECA) public comment period will be in mid-April. The T4 early action proposal will be up for comment in mid-May.

Robin Plance adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.